

# Biddulph & District Genealogy & Historical Society Newsletter - March 2016

Meetings commence at 7 p.m. in Biddulph Library. Admission is free for society members and £2 for non-members.

## Spring / Summer 2016 Programme

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March:** AGM followed by a Genealogy Night. There will be a number of short films, Biddulph slide shows, maps available from the archives and Mike Dawson's book stall.

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** Mr. Peter Boon "History of North Biddulph"

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May:** Mr. Tony Bonson "The Congleton Mills – Driven By the Dane" TBC

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June :** Annual Guided Walk around Congleton (provisional) to be followed by sandwiches at a local hostelry.

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June :** Messrs. Nigel Daly and Brian Vowles " A History of the Clough"

Local & Family History Day  
Congleton Town Hall, High Street,  
Congleton, CW12 1BN,  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 9.30am-2pm



Above:  
One Hundred Years Ago  
Post card of the funeral procession of the five Bestwick children ( aged from 2 to 14 years of age) who died in a devastating fire that swept through their home at Brown Lees in 1916.



1:1856



3: 1861



6



2: 1861



4: 1884



5: 1906

Just how well do you know Biddulph?

Where are the above?  
Answers over.....

### Staffordshire Sentinel: April 7<sup>th</sup> 1860

**Highway Robbery at Biddulph** – Amos Green, of Biddulph Moor, blacksmith, was charged at the Leek Police Court, on Thursday, before John Russell, Esq., with violently assaulting Mr. Rothery, of Congleton, spirit merchant, and taking away his watch.

### Staffordshire Sentinel June 1838

#### COMMITTAL ON CHARGE OF MURDER

An inquest was held on Wednesday, at the Church-house, in Biddulph, before W.Harding, Esq. to investigate the circumstances connected with the death of Prudence Sutton, wife of Joseph Sutton, of Biddulph, who, it was reported, had died on Monday afternoon, from injuries received from her husband a few days before.



The Froghall Trip in June:



Staffordshire Daily Sentinel Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 1880

### Opening Of Biddulph Bowling Green

“The opening of the Bowling Green at Biddulph Hotel took place yesterday afternoon, the members of the club, including a number of gentlemen from Burslem, holding their annual dinner on the occasion. Unfortunately for Mr. Midwinter, the enterprising proprietor, the weather was very unfavourable for bowling in the afternoon, and therefore the gathering was not so large as it would otherwise have been. At the dinner Mr. F.S.Gosling presided, the vice -chair being filled by Mr. T.H.Bishton (Leek). Amongst those present were Mr. James Heath, Mr. Bradbury, and Mr. W Kent. The spread was excellent, Mr. Midwinter doing his best to show his appreciation of the support of his numerous friends. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were honoured, and the Chairman then gave “Success to the Bowling Club”, and spoke in most complimentary terms of the way in which the proprietor of that hotel endeavoured to make his homes and grounds attractive to the public, and particular so to bowlers.” *Various other toasts followed and then* : “the weather having cleared up , the company turned out upon the green, and several games were played. The green was never in better condition, and the grounds round the hotel are in very good order. Considering the very good hotel accommodation, the beautiful country, the grandeur of Mr. Heath’s gardens (which are ever open to the public) and other attractions in the neighbourhood, it is really astonishing that the people of the smoke – begrimed Potteries do not flock to Biddulph in greater numbers, where, for the time being, they may have the smoke taken out of their nostrils, and , oblivious of the very existence of pot banks and their concomitants, they may fully realise the beauty in nature to such an extent as those who have been can testify. One great drawback , however, to Biddulph is the unsatisfactory and inconvenient railway arrangements. It would really be an accomodation to the public, and doubtless a paying undertaking on the part of the railway company if they were to run an extra train from the Potteries to Biddulph during the summer months.”

MAYOR FRANKLIN (M.P.), BARRISTER, & CO.  
 Midwinter Charles, *Biddulph Arms*  
*hotel, & wine & spirit merchant; &*  
 at Market place, Burslem

#### Kelly’s 1880 Directory

Answers: 1 & 3 Chapel at bottom of Station Rd, 2 Trough on Congleton Road / Fountain Court, 4 Albion Mill , Station Rd, 5 High Street near junction with Station Rd, 6 Top of Station Rd.

#### This year Staffordshire is holding its first ‘Staffordshire Day’

Staffordshire Day is the first ever celebration of all things great about the county which also corresponds with the 1000th anniversary of the first recorded mention of Staffordshire in the Anglo Saxon Chronicle. **At Riverway Centre, Riverway,Stafford, on 7th May 2016** If you would like to book a place on this event go to:

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/Events/home.aspx>